

that cost savings will be obtained by providing large quantities of drugs to patients. Although allowed by law, this may not be what the prescribing physician had intended. For example, a prescription written for a 30-day supply of medication, with five refills available, would generally be filled every 30 days for a five-month period by a Nebraska pharmacist. But through a mail order subscription, this would not be true. By contrast, the medications would take...180 doses would probably be dispensed at one time with the local pharmacist being out of the loop. Currently, when you go also to get your prescription you must now get a computer readout on all the possible side effects that that drug may have. And sometimes, as you read through those, some of them are very frightening. As you get that computer readout through the mail, you certainly don't have that availability to communicate those concerns with the local pharmacist, as that person knowing your medical history and understanding you having established that relationship with the pharmacist may be able to explain what the real possibility of that kind of a reaction may be for you with that particular prescription. The traditional practice of pharmacy is highlighted by face-to-face consultation between the pharmacist and through the client. And I, by contrast, I think what we do is to discourage a very important link in especially rural Nebraska with our pharmacist being that person in that health care link. As we offer incentives and financial incentives for people to use the mail order pharmacies, it's very difficult for those local pharmacists to stay in business. These only pertain to maintenance drugs, and as the pharmacist would look at those maintenance drugs, those would be those that the pharmacist would know would be in a year's time, a certain amount, a basis for the business that they have. As you take that away, then as far as how they look at their income for the year, it certainly would be just according to those other prescriptions that they would be filling. I think it's important. I think it's especially important for rural Nebraska. As we have talked many times on this floor about doing all that we can to delivering health services to rural Nebraska, I see LB 718 as one way of ensuring that we continue to guarantee the best that we can for quality health care through our local pharmacists, and not allow an incentive, a money incentive for people to use mail order pharmacies. I am happy that Senator Janssen made this his priority bill, and I would be happy to give my remaining time to Senator Janssen for any comments he may have.

SPEAKER WITH THEM PRESIDING